

The Catholic Board Council (CBC) of OSTA-AECO has been off to an incredible start this year! OSTA-AECO's Fall General Meeting was an absolute success, with constitutional amendments going by with ease. Most exciting was the establishment and chair elections of several CBC Ad Hoc Committees, whose foci include, but are not limited to, Social Justice, Equity and Inclusion, Prayer, Catholic Communications, Students Speak, Keep the Flame Burning, and Ban the Bottle. We also had the honour of meeting with Archbishop Collins for breakfast, where many CBC members chatted with his worship about many issues and ideas pertaining to Catholic education.

The board council has been hosting bi-monthly electronic meetings over Adobe Connect, a completely new avenue for communication within OSTA-AECO. These meetings keep student trustees in contact so that we can increase productivity and communication, regardless of distance.

CBC is also grateful for their strong relationship with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA), with whom the CBC Cabinet has had several meetings and discussions. OCSTA executives Sharon McMillian and Lou Rocha were also invited to speak at FGM, where they enlightened many of us about our roles as Catholic Student Trustees. We look forward to further establishing our relationship with OCSTA by attending a workshop solely for student trustees hosted at their winter conference, from January 13-14

We are also hard at work preparing the Board Council Conferences in February; we have invited a range of speakers, including Development and Peace, Director



of Catholic Education Noel Martin, as well as a principal of Diversity and Equitable and Inclusive Education, to inspire our student trustees. Perhaps most exciting are the faith-based endeavours we are setting up. CBC is going to be participating in our annual "Catholic Component", which will be hosted at Ottawa Mission this year. We will also be participating in a short mass, in order to develop our faith while we develop as leaders.

The board council has been extremely productive within the past few months; the Communications Committee has put in place a communication plan with our many Catholic stakeholders. The Equity and Inclusion Committee has finished and released the Equity and Inclusion Report, which offers the Catholic student perspective on the Equity and Inclusion English Catholic Policy Template provided by the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC). The committee has also been hard at work on Connect4Equity, an OSTA-AECO project where students from across Ontario can submit works of equity and inclusion to an electronically based contest. We are also looking forward to creating a province-wide publication of student works illustrating Catholic Education.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Clarisse Schneider  
Catholic President

